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COUNTRY Burma

<u>CONCIDENTIAI</u> **DOMITOLITIM**L

DATE DISTR. 18 MAY 1949

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SUBJECT

DATE OF IN

Internal Conditions in Burma-

as of 19-21 April, 1949

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PLACE **ACQUIRED**

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SUPPLEMENT TO

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1. Upper Burma

The Peoples Volunteer Organization (PVO) has concentrated three hundred troops a few miles southeast of Shwebo, prepared to attack the town when PVO reinforcements arrive from Mugan. The police from Thaze have been withdrawn to Ye-U. In the Katha area, the PVO troops have left Pinlebo, taking two hundred arms with them, and present an increasing threat to Katha itself. A message from Katha declares that the whole of the local police force is unreliable for operational purposes.

After a clash with the battalion of Chin Hills Union Military Police (UMP), the PVO around Mawlaik went underground. The PVO groups at Mingin and Malwaik are now trying to contact the PVO on the lower Chindwin.

Central Burma

A source who escaped from Pakkoku reported that the town was administered by a nine-man committee, which included three members of the PVO, and by a five-man War Council, which also included three PVO members. When the town was occupied by the PVO one hundred armed Socialists went underground.

Monywa is surrounded by Red Flags, White Flags and the PVO. Kani has fallen to a group of insurgents whose identity is as yet unknown. The Karens are reported to be gaining the upper hand in clashes with the White Flags at Baspomn. The PVO attacked the Karens at a point 40 miles south of Baspomn, and, in a battle 10 miles from the town, they claim to have captured 65 Karens.

5. Lower Burma

A force of nine hundred Karens attacked villages in the Kalaukche area, 10 miles northwest of Rangoon, and seven hundred more are reported to be concentrated at Twante, 12 miles southwest of Rangoon.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- 6. The PVO, in preparation for an attack on Syriam, is successfully suborning troops and UMP personnel in that city. During the last two days 33 men with arms have deserted from these forces to the PVO, and the remainder of the UMP personnel are suspected of similar tendencies. The PVO has established judicial and magisterial offices at Kyauktan, 16 miles southeast of Rangoon, and at Kayan, 13 miles east-northeast of the capital.
- 7. An official source, who escaped from Prome, reported on 20, April 1949, that THAN TUN, Thakin SOE and U SEIN DA, leader of the Arakanese autonomy movement, are conferring at Prome with other political leaders.* He further reported that advance troops of the insurgents, consisting of the PVO and Burif mutineers, are stationed immediately north of Hmawbi on a line from Tantabin to Wanetchaung. The intention of these troops is to capture Hmawbi at all costs. Other reports from Insein indicate an attack has already been launched on the town from the north. The rear headquarters of these insurgents is in Tharrawaddy. Two companies of the PVO and two companies of the 21 UMP, deserters, are stationed at Djonze, two miles south of the city.
- 8. An attacking force of five hundred Karens was repulsed from Nyaunglebin 3 times by Government troops, who claim heavy losses were inflicted on the Karens. White Flags attacked Karen reinforcements from the north that arrived at Penwegon, 20 miles northwest of Nyaunglebin. Again, heavy casualties among Karen troops were claimed, this time by the White Flags.

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Comment. An official report from Sandoway acknowledges that SOE and U SEIN DA are in Prome conferring with PVO leaders. A conflicting report claims, however, that SOE is imprisoned at Tharrawaddy.

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